

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting messages in a distributed system, the method comprising:

receiving a message from a sending client by a first message gateway; extracting meta information from the received message;

transmitting the meta information from the first message gateway to a message broker while keeping the received message at the first message gateway;

selecting a second message gateway on the basis of the meta information and client profile data by the message broker;

transmitting modified meta information including message managing information from the message broker to the first message gateway; and

transmitting the message from the first message gateway to the selected second message gateway so that the second message gateway can transfer the message to a target client,

wherein said message broker is an entity physically separated from said first and second message gateways.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message broker processes the meta information to provide for security and authentication and returns the meta information to the first message gateway.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message broker processes the meta information and returns the meta information to the first message gateway, and

wherein the message is sent to the selected second gateway together with the meta information under the control of the processed meta information.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message is converted by a message processor prior to being sent to the selected second message gateway.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer program, stored in a tangible storage medium, for transmission of messages in a distributed system, the program comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

~~receiving~~receive a message from a sending client by a first message gateway; ~~extracting~~  
extract meta information from the received message;

~~transmitting~~transmit the meta information from the first message gateway to a message broker while keeping the received message at the first message gateway;

~~selecting~~select a second message gateway on the basis of the meta information and client profile data by the message broker;

~~transmitting~~transmit modified meta information including message managing information from the message broker to the first message gateway; and

~~transmitting~~ transmit the message from the first message gateway to the selected second message gateway so that the second message gateway can transfer the message to a target client,

wherein said message broker is an entity physically separated from said first and second message gateways.

6. (Currently Amended) A distributed system to transmit messages, the system comprising:

a first message gateway to receive messages from sending clients, said first message gateway configured to extract meta information from the received messages;

a message broker to receive only the extracted meta information from the first message gateway, said message broker processing the meta information and returning the processed meta information to the first message gateway; and

a second message gateway to receive the message from the first message gateway controlled by the processed meta information, and to transfer the received message to a target client,

wherein said message broker is an entity physically separated from said first and second message gateways.

7. (Previously Presented) A distributed system according to claim 6, further comprising a client profile database connected to the message broker,

wherein the message broker processes the meta information on the basis of the data of the

client profile database.

8. (Previously Presented) A distributed system according to claim 6, wherein the message broker provides for a security and/or authentication functionality.

9. (Previously Presented) A distributed system according to claim 6, further comprising a message processor interconnected between the first and second message gateway for processing the content of the message.